



## MILLTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Milltown, New Jersey 08850-1643

[www.milltownps.org](http://www.milltownps.org)



Eric Siegel  
Principal-Parkview  
80 Violet Terrace  
732-214-2360  
[esiegel@milltownps.org](mailto:esiegel@milltownps.org)

Stephanie Brown, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
[sbrown@milltownps.org](mailto:sbrown@milltownps.org)

William G. Veit  
Principal-Joyce Kilmer  
21 West Church Street  
732-214-2370  
[wveit@milltownps.org](mailto:wveit@milltownps.org)

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is our country's most important education law. In 2015 this law was reauthorized to support teaching and learning that will help increase academic achievement in our schools. The law requires that all schools receiving Title I funds must inform parents of their right to ask schools about the qualifications of their child's teachers. Our school receives Title I funding and we are happy to share this information with you at your request.

We believe that nothing is more important to your child's education at school than having a well-prepared and highly qualified teacher. The law requires that all teachers must meet a specific legal definition of "highly qualified" in order to teach in schools that receive Title I funding. The legal definition of a "Highly Qualified Teacher" has three parts. It states that the teacher must have the following:

1. A four-year college degree;
2. A regular teaching certificate/license; and
3. Proof of their knowledge in the subject they teach.

New Jersey has some of the most qualified teachers in the country, and we are extremely proud of the quality of the teaching staff in the Milltown School District. All of our regular teachers have college degrees and many have advanced degrees. The State of New Jersey has always required a teaching certificate/license for all teachers. In addition, every teacher continues learning through professional development activities and our teachers are evaluated each year to make sure that their teaching skills remain at the highest possible level.

All teachers hired after the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year were required to meet this definition. According to ESEA, veteran teachers, hired before the 2002-2003 school year, who had not yet met the legal definition of highly qualified, had until the end of the 2005-2006 school year to do so. The state of New Jersey had requested flexibility from the United States Department of Education to extend the deadline to the end of the 2006-2007 school year.

To ensure that every child in every classroom has a highly qualified teacher, the State of New Jersey and our school district have worked together to help teachers meet the requirements of the federal law by providing several options. Teachers were able to take a new test, or they demonstrated their expertise through a combination of college coursework, professional development activities, and experience.

A highly qualified teacher knows what to teach, how to teach, and has a full understanding of the subject matter being taught. We believe that every teacher in our district is fully qualified and dedicated to teaching your child, and we have done everything possible to help our teachers meet the legal definition required by the federal government.

I encourage you to support your child's education and communicate with his or her teacher on a regular basis. By partnering together-families and educators-we can provide your child with the best education possible.

Sincerely,

***Dr. Stephanie Brown***

Dr. Stephanie Brown, Superintendent